

CMS Special Open Door Forum: The Medicare E-Prescribing Program

Tuesday, March 1, 2005
2:00 – 4:00 PM (Eastern Time)

On March 1, 2005 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will be hosting a Special Open Door Forum focusing on clarification and discussion of the E-prescribing proposed rule that was published in the Federal Register on Friday, February 4, 2005.

On January 28, 2005, we published the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit final rule that establishes the Prescription Drug Benefit Program and cost control and quality improvement requirements for Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit plans. One of the provisions in that final rule requires Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) sponsors, Medicare Advantage (MA) Organizations offering Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plans, and other Part D sponsors to support and comply with electronic prescribing standards once final standards are in effect, including any standards that are in effect before the drug benefit begins in 2006.

This rule proposes to adopt standards for an electronic prescription drug program under Title I of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). These proposed standards would be the foundation standards or the first set of final uniform standards for an electronic prescription drug program under the MMA, and represent the first step in our incremental approach to adopting final uniform standards that are consistent with the MMA objectives of patient safety, quality of care, and efficiencies and cost savings in the delivery of care.

During this two-hour Open Door Forum, we hope to clarify your understanding of the proposed rule and provide an overview of some of the key elements contained within it. We intend to discuss the timeline for the adoption of e-prescribing standards, the proposed foundation standards, and CMS' plan to conduct a pilot project to test additional standards, as mandated by the MMA. We will allow ample time for questions or comments, and expect to listen to and respond to a broad and representative sample of input from various stakeholders.

To view the proposed rule, please use the following web link:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-1773.pdf>

Additionally, a set of questions and answers on the proposed rule can be found on the CMS web site at: http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php?p_cat_lv12=167

We look forward to your participation during this open session.

Participation Instructions:

There are 2 ways to participate, by phone or "in-person".

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: **1-800-837-1935** & Reference Conference ID: **3860280**

Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired.

For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help

2. To participate in-person:

If you intend to participate in person, **RSVP is required:**

Please send a reply to this email by close of business Thursday, February 24th to SpecialODF@cms.hhs.gov

*Please include "**E Prescribing**" in the subject line of your email reply, and send us the following information:

- a) Your full name
- b) Your organization or representation
- c) Your contact information (phone and email)
- d) Special needs information

Location information:

ADDRESS:

Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg.
Conference Room 325A
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Map & Directions: <http://www.hhs.gov/about/hhhmap.html>

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID #. **3860280**

The recording begins 2 hours after the call, and expires after 4 business days.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (Listserv registration) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor